

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 04280 081135Z

42

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 OES-06 FEA-01 FPC-01 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 EUR-12 L-03 ERDA-05 NRC-05 CU-02 MMO-01 AID-05

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6170

INFO USDOC WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRA, ENRG, KU, US

SUBJ: MINISTER OF ELECTRICITY AND WATER VISIT TO U.S.

1. KUWAIT DAILY (AL-ANBA') REPORTS, AD MINISTRY CONFIRMS, THAT MINISTER OF ELECTRICITY AND WATER (MEW), ABDULLA Y.AL-GHANEM, LEFT KUWAIT FOR MONTH-LONG TRIP TO EUROPE AND U.S. ON SEPT 1. DAILY SAYS MINISTER EMPOWERED BY PRIME MINISTER JABIR AL-AHMED TO SIGN AGREEMENTS RELATING TO ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION, DESALINATION OF SEA WATER, AND "NUCLEAR ENERGY. . . FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES."

2. KUWAITI OFFICIALS FREQUENTLY DEVELOP OR CHANGE TRAVEL PLANS ON SHORT NOTICE. AL-GHANEM WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO ATTEND CASTARAB CONFERENCE IN RABAT IN LATE AUGUST, BUT CANCELLED OUT TO TAKE TRIP TO EUROPE AND U.S. CONTRARY TO IMPRESSION GIVEN BY PRESS REPORT, SENIOR MEW OFFICIAL WHO INVOLVED IN ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRIP TELLS US THAT MINISTER VISITING U.S. PRIMARILY FOR VACATION, NOT BUSINESS, TO JOIN HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN WHO ALREADY THERE ON LONG-PROMISED BICENTENNIAL TOUR. OFFICIAL ADDED THAT MINISTER MIGHT VISIT SOME OLD FRIENDS.

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PAGE 02 KUWAIT 04280 081135Z

3. IF THE MINISTER DOES DISCUSS ANY BUSINESS, IT IS LIKELY

TO BE KUWAIT'S INTEREST IN A NUCLEAR TRAINING REACTOR. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT GOK IS INTERESTED IN PURCHASING A SMALL (40 - 50 MEGAWATT) NUCLEAR REACTOR AND WATER DESALINIZATION PLANT (CAPACITY 2 MILLION GALLONS PER DAY). REACTOR, WHICH COULD BE IN OPERATION BY 1980, WOULD BE DESIGNED TO TRAIN KUWAITI PERSONNEL IN NUCLEAR OPERATION. GOK HAS ALREADY MADE PRELIMINARY CONTACTS WITH EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN FIRMS (AMONG THEM GEC, FRAMATONE, WESTINGHOUSE, AND POSSIBLY KRAFTWERK UNION) AND MAY ISSUE AN OFFICIAL REQUEST FOR PURCHASE OF TRAINING REACTOR. MAESTRONE

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Message Attributes

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